TEXT FROM WIKI ON SONNET XLIII

TEXTS IN TIME PLAN

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| **TEXT IDEAS** | **NOTES** |
| **PART 1 - INTRO**  **Introduction and explanation of thesis: different types of love. EBB as authentic and personal; FSF as idealized but not based on personal reality; real love not possible in corrupted ideals of American Dream**   * Social, cultural and historical contexts * composer's personal milieu - affect how texts are valued * Elizabeth Barrett Browning's "Songs from the Portuguese" (1849) and F Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby (1926) nature of love. * intensely personal and not intended for publication, Browning's sonnets - love - devoted, passionate and spiritual but firmly rooted in the reality of a reciprocal developing relationship. * Jay Gatsby's expression of love is also idealised and devoted to the point of obsession in his quest for his beloved Daisy Buchanan. * However, Fitzgerald, aftermath of WW1, reveals a love that is tragically futile - based on a projection, not a real person * possibilities of authentic love corrupted by the failed ideals of the American Dream. | Intro- thesis: (1) context affects values expressed in texts, (2) both texts about love, (3) EBB power of authentic love AND based on real, (4) TGG also power of love BUT undermined by (a) projection not a person AND (b) failed ideals of American Dream |
| **PART 2 – AUTHENTIC LOVE IN BROWNING**  **Authentic love – an explanation. How it is portrayed by Browning. Her personal and social contexts**   * many forms in real human experience, so by composers. * authentic or 'real' love based on shared intimacy, acceptance and trust / powerful transforming. * Browning's sonnets can understood through personal circumstances, Victorian context of 1840s. * six years Robert's junior, invalid, a controlling, restrictive father ,loving relationship extremely unlikely. * strong Methodist faith and classical education, both evident in poems. * great social change through industrialisation, Victorian attitudes towards women were restrictive. * patriarchal social values women few legal rights with property and wealth * pragmatic attitudes to courtship and marriage emphasised economic and social advantage rather than emotional integrity. * open acknowledgement of emotion, sexuality repressed. * sonnets celebrated transforming power of authentic shared love * subverted and challenged some Victorian values towards women, courtship and loving relationships. | 1 Topic sentence: Many form of love in texts. Definition of authentic love between two  2 EBB personal context  3 EBB social context  4 EBB celebrate authentic love  5 EBB both reflect some Victorian values and challenge others |
| **Sonnet possibility 1 – Discuss representation of genuine personal love in a sonnet**   * Sonnet XIII power of love to call forth, to make demands * Browning’s uncertainty in responding to Robert’s wooing * second person direct address + extended metaphor of the burning ‘torch’ - unable or unwilling to articulate her feelings ‘of love hid in me out of reach’. * reluctance may stem from father’s resistance to his children marrying and social stigma (based perhaps on her age), suggested by ‘while the winds are rough / Between our faces’. * uses, perhaps ironically, Victorian stereotype of demure, passive woman as she ‘commends’ ‘the silence of my womanhood’ and ‘my woman-love’. * final lines sestet show power of love to make demands, call forth. metaphor ‘And rend the garment of my life’ - strength of ‘The love I bare thee’ to change completely outer appearances of life. | Topic sentence: how love is represented in one sonnet  Quote-technique-effect – link to context  Context link  Quote – technique – effect |
| **Sonnet possibility 2 – Discuss representation of genuine personal love in a second sonnet. Not essential – you could decide to refer in depth to just one poem here or to discuss two in less depth.**   * Sonnet XXI more confident and joyful as expresses power of love to bring hope, to be necessary for a sense of fulfilment. * real connection between two lovers evident from opening second person imperative: ‘Say over again, and yet once over again / That thou dost love me.’ * repeated declarations likened to a ‘cuckoo song’. In nature, heralds coming of 'the fresh Spring'. * Robert’s repeated professions of love parallel persona’s own awakening and new hope. metaphor implied by personification of Spring as feminine ‘her’. * Browning’s passion revealed through direct address 'Beloved' and 'Dear'. * sonnet ends with exhortation to him to remember spiritual dimension to love, expressed in a meditative sibilant alliteration, ‘love me also in silence with thy soul’. * imagery reflect Platonic ideals of genuine love through body, soul and divine consciousness, - Browning’s classical education and strong Methodist faith. | Topic sentence: another aspect of love revealed in another sonnet  Quote – technique – effect  Quote – technique – effect to reveal a different aspect of love  Context link |
| **Sonnet possibility 3 – another expression of a deeply felt personal love**   * Sonnet XXII powerful connection between two people intimately and genuinely in love with each other * Christian religious imagery reflecting Browning’s Methodist faith permeate this sonnet. * paradoxically, while imagery indicates earthly death will not separate lovers, but will continue in heaven, persona convinces her lover – shown through the emphatic ‘Think!’ - should embrace, enjoy their life on earth while they can. * Unlike other sonnets, Browning uses first person plural to express their unity ‘When out two souls stand up erect and strong’. * Browning proclaims desire for earthly fulfillment with ‘Beloved’. * alliteration and caesura at the start of the sestet – ‘Into our deep, dear silence. // Let us stay / Rather on earth’ emphasizes unexpected inversion of ‘mounting higher’ to heaven. * even the angels could be oppressive – ‘would press on us’. * persona emphasizes deep, shared communion between their ‘pure spirits’, her desire for ‘A place to stand and love in’, unafraid of the ‘darkness and the death-hour rounding it.’ sonnet celebrates profound, abiding unity between 2 lovers. Browning’s sonnets well received by Victorian audience as feminine devotion to a man subverted more cynical and pragmatic attitudes to courtship. | Topic sentence: an aspect of authentic love explored in another sonnet  Quote – technique – effect  Quote – technique – effect to show an aspect of authentic love  Contextual link |
| **PART 3 – IDEALISED LOVE IN GATSBY**  **Comparative link: 70 years later, attitudes to love affected by traumatic impact of Great War. Fitzgerald’s social and personal contexts**   * sonnets explore deeply felt personal love against a backdrop of 1840s and 50s Victorian values * Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby examines very different types of love some 70 years later in America after the trauma of WW1. * 1920s a decade of great prosperity and hedonistic materialism. * Fitzgerald coined the term the Jazz Age to signify anything was possible: prohibition, traditional values, religious faith weakened; many women flouted conventional social, sexual norms. * Fitzgerald recognized shallowness, hypocrisy greed of times, questioned whether love possible in such a society, * also moral direction of America as a nation. * own life, difficult marriage to Zelda, chronic shortage of money while trying to maintain an expensive celebrity lifestyle in New York parallels early life of Gatsby | Topic sentence: link across from EBB to Fitzgerald – via different types of love that possible in America of 1920s  Social context  Personal context |
| **Gatsby’s love for Daisy based on a remembered idealized past. Destined to fail because not based on intimacy and trust**   * relationship that drives narrative Gatsby’s obsessional desire for woman lost - convinced will alone bring him happiness. * ‘extraordinary gift for hope’ symbolized by ‘a single green light, minute and faraway’. * location on Daisy Buchanan’s dock opposite at East Egg only later revealed, through Nick Carraway’s non-omniscient narration, to represent Gatsby’s dreams and hopes for the future. * Gatsby’s plan to induce Daisy to leave her husband – he ‘waited 5 years and bought a mansion where he dispensed starlight to casual moths’ –ultimately flawed as not based on personal intimacy and trust, in contrast to Browning. * even in moment of apparent fulfillment - Daisy at mansion, Gatsby seems diminished - ‘the colossal significance of that light had now vanished forever’. * love not be sustained only by ‘the colossal vitality of his illusion.’ Only when Gatsby had lost all – dismissed by Tom for his ‘presumptuous little flirtation’, Myrtle killed by Daisy’s driving, and about to be shot by Wilson – does see emptiness of idealized love: ‘paid a high price for living too long with a single dream …(as he) looked up at an unfamiliar sky through frightening leaves and shivered’ | Topic sentence: Gatsby’s pursuit of Daisy  Gatsby with gift of hope – symbol of green light  Plan to win Daisy flawed: no real relationship  Reality cannot measure up to intense illusion  Gatsby’s final realization of the folly of his love |
| **Optional aspect to discuss**  **Gatsby’s love fails because, even at its beginning, love was based on deceit and taking advantage of the other**   * Fitzgerald, though Nick, presents Gatsby’s unfailing belief in his dream as a heroic inner substance: ‘You’re worth the whole damn bunch put together.’ * even start of romance based on deception, selfishness. In last conversation, Gatsby recounts how ‘ravenously and unscrupulously ..he took Daisy one still October night …under false pretenses.’ * language of Gatsby and Daisy’s closeness – ‘they had never been closer …nor communicated more profoundly, than when she brushed silent lips against his’ – reminds of Browning, but connections between Gatsby, Daisy shallow, selfish. | Topic sentence: romance begun with deception unlikely to be fulfilling and lasting  Quote – effect |
| **PART 4- REAL LOVE NOT POSSIBLE IN AMERICA OF 1920s – TOM AND DAISY**  **The relationship between Tom and Daisy**  If Gatsby represents the possibilities and hopes for love, the marriage of Daisy and Tom Buchanan symbolizes the impossibility of real love when selfishness, greed and infidelity predominate. | Topic sentence |
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